

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 28, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Board Members Present: Richard J. Kirchner, Chairman
Janet G. Stanton, Selectman
David D. Macy, Selectman

Others Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Rene Wood, Planning Board Chairman
Tom Matuszko, Berkshire Regional Planning

Chairman Kirchner called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 21, 2005 and Executive Session of March 21, 2005 meetings.
Selectman Stanton moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2005 and the Executive Session meeting of March 21, 2005, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON SMART GROWTH GRANT, Rene Wood, Chairman, Planning Board:
Rene Wood gave an update on the highlights of the Smart Growth Grant.

UPDATE ON RIGHT-TO-FARM LAW, Tom Matuszko, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)

Tom Matuszko discussed and presented a draft Right to Farm By-Law (copy attached) developed by a committee of Sheffield Farmers and interested citizens. He recommends that the bylaw be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Board of Selectmen will schedule a Public Hearing for April 28.

APPOINTMENTS - SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Based on correspondence from Carl Proper, Chairman of the Sheffield Historical Commission, who had received resignation forms & requested appointing David & Barbara West:
Selectman Macy moved to accept the resignation of William Browne, Susan LeGeyt VanDeusen & Robert Macy Jr. from the Sheffield Historical Commission, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Stanton moved to appoint David West and Barbara West to the Historical Commission, seconded by Selectman Macy. Discussion:

Selectman Macy expressed concern about spouses being on the same board. Selectman Stanton said she generally agrees with policy of not having spouses on same committee but she could go either way on this one.

Chairman Kirchner called for the vote. In favor of motion - none,
opposed - Selectmen Macy and Stanton.

CTSB - Re: Agreement between CTSB and Town of Sheffield:

In response to a letter dated 3/22/05 from Jim Balfanz, President of Community Television for the Southern Berkshires, the Board will invite him to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss CTSB's request to amend the cable television contract. Currently cable subscribers in Sheffield are charged 3% for its public access channel (which is CTSB). CTSB is asking Sheffield to change the agreement to have cable subscribers pay 5% to CTSB.

While discussion ensued, Selectman Macy expressed severe disappointment with CTSB's service, and both Selectmen Stanton and Macy indicated that they were not inclined to increase the fee charged to Sheffield subscribers, but would invite Mr. Balfanz to an upcoming meeting to discuss.

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENTS

Town Administrator Weitz stated that Counsel had recommended language changes to Section VIII of the Personnel Policy (copy attached to file). Selectman Stanton moved that the changes be accepted as noted, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

MOWING & LANDSCAPING

Town Administrator Weitz recommended that the Board accept the one bid the town received on mowing & landscaping. Selectman Stanton moved to award the bid for Mowing & Landscaping to Steven Seward & Son's Lawncare for three years at \$9,800 per year, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Correspondence had been received from Labor Counsel that the federal mileage rate is now 40.5 cents per mile. Sheffield currently reimburses at 30 cents per mile. Town Administrator Weitz recommended that the Board increase the rate to at least 35 cents per mile.

Selectman Macy moved to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for personal use of vehicles to 40 cents per mile, effective immediately. Selectman Stanton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS PARK - SALE OF LOT

Selectman Stanton moved to sign the purchase of sale agreement of Sheffield Business Park lots 2 (CMR LLC of Great Barrington, MA) and 4 ((Four Corners, LLC of Millerton, NY), seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Selectman Stanton moved to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation - Re: Planning Board and Real Estate Negotiations - Re: Business Park and to not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Macy. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Macy - Aye; Selectman Stanton-Aye, and Chairman Kirchner-Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Weitz, Town Administrator

